GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5795
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2001
EXCAVATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES
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Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ASI has excavated any archaeological sites belonging to Sangam period or post-Sangam period coeval with the early centuries of christian era;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the artefacts brought to light from these excavation are found dumped in the stores of ASI and no detailed report on the findings of excavations have been made; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR)

(a) & (b) Sir, without going into the academic debate about the historicity of the Sangam or post-Sangam period, the ASI has excavated early historical and historical sites in Tamilnadu and Pondicherry, which are primarily the areas of the Sangam literature and details of those sites along with the status of publications are given in the annexure.

(c) & (d) The artefacts which have been excavated have been kept in the safe custody of the Archaeological Survey of India.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN THE REPLY TO THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5795

DETAILS OF SANGAM PERIOD SITES EXCAVATED BY ASI

Sl.No.	Name of Site	Cultural sequence	Status of publication
1.	Kanchipuram, District Kanchipuram	The excavation revealed 4 successive structural periods belonging to early historical times ranging from circa 300 BC to medieval period. The remains include fragmentary ring-wells, megalithic black and red ware, bright red slipped ware, Roulettted , Satavahan copper coins, amphorae, seals, bone objects, arrow heads, glass bangles and beads, etc.	Annual reports in Indian Archaeology A Review 1953-54 & 1962-63.
2.	Kaveripattinam, Dist. Nagapattinam	Excavation and exploration at the site have brought to light a brick-built wharf, a water reservoir and a Buddhist monastery, habitation sites with brick structures and a few ring-wells, square copper coins with royal crest of the Cholas, sherds of Black and red ware, beads of semiprecious stones	Detailed report published as Memoir of Archaeological Survey of India No. 90, 1994
3.	Arikamedu, District		

Pondicherry	Indo-Roman trading station with remains of an oblong building identified as a warehouse with single partition wall and a side chamber was exposed, two tanks, drains, pavements, Arretine ware, Amphorae, Rouletted ware and local ceramics, all dating between 1st century BC to 200 AD.	Detailed report published in Ancient India No. 2, 1946	
4. Mammallpuram, District Kanchipuram	The site belongs to Historical period and excavated remains are broken pillars and pottery, etc.	Annual reports in Indian Archaeology A Review	1990-91
5. T. Kallupatti, District Madurai	The site belongs to the Mesolithic & Neolithic period. The excavated assemblages are burnished grey ware, black and red ware, white painted black and red ware, white painted black ware, Russet-coated white, painted ware, coarse red ware and black on red ware.	Annual reports in Indian Archaeology A Review	1976-77
6. Kambermedu, District Thanjavur	The site belongs to the Early Historical period. The cultural assemblage are beads of glass and semi precious stone, copper coins and associated pottery	Annual reports in Indian Archaeology A Review	1982-83 & 1983-84
7. Perur, District Coimbatore	The recovered antiquities of the Early Historical period are Iron objects, glass bangles, terracotta lamps. Besides the pottery of Megalithic black and red ware, red ware, all black ware, Russet-coated Painted Ware etc. have been found.	Annual reports in Indian Archaeology A Review	1970-71
8. Auroville, District South Arcot	It is a Megalithic site, the recovered antiquities are Iron objects and megalithic pots.	Annual reports in Indian Archaeology A Review	1984-85&1985-86
9. Paiyampalli, District Vellore	Megalithic hand made grey ware, burnished grey ware, megalithic black and red ware, ground stone axes, russet-coated Painted ware, etc.	Annual reports in Indian Archaeology A Review	1964-65&1967-68
10. Sittanavasal, District Pudukottai	Megaliths, black and red ware, red ware, black polished ware, all black ware, iron implements etc.	Annual reports in Indian Archaeology A Review	1975-76
11. Karaikudu, District north Arcot	An Indo -Roman trading station yielding Red slipped ware, black and red ware, Rouletted ware. Important finds include beads of semiprecious stones, glass, etc.	Annual reports in Indian Archaeology A Review	1966-67
12. Amrithamangalam, District Tiruvalur	Site yielded immense number of hand made coarse and thick Urn burials, oval to roundish in shape. The Urns	Annual reports in Indian Archaeology A Review	1954-55

		contained excarnated skull, long bones, loosened teeth and rib fragments.	
13.	Sannur, District Kanchipuram	Detailed report The site yielded three types of Megalithic burials - (1) Cairn Circle type, (2) Dolemoid Cist type, and (3) Dolmenoid Cist with flush capstone. Other finds include pottery, iron and shell objects and skeletal remains including skulls.	published in Ancient India No. 15
14.	Kunnattur, District Kanchipuram	Three main types of Megalithic burials were exposed along with the remains of early historical and late historical periods. The megalithic types found were the Cairn Circles,State dolmenoid Cist and Sarcophagi. Pottery included Black and red ware & red and black ware.	Annual reports in Indian Archaeology A Review 1955-56, 1956-57 &1957-58.